THE PEOPLE'S MANUAL OF S. JOSEPH.

Who is St. Joseph?

BY THE

BISHOP OF SALFORD.

PRAYERS

WITH

Thoughts and Examples

For Every Day in the Month.

PRICE FIVE C

WHO IS ST. JOSEPH?

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ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY,
BALTIMORE.
1889.

St. Joseph's College,

Mill Hill, London, Aug. 28, 1887.

My Dear Father Slattery:

You have my hearty consent to publish my little manual, "Who is St Joseph," or any other of my manuals, if it will in any way help on our Missions among the Colored Race.

Your devoted Father in Christ,

† Herbert, Bishop of Salford,

Superior General of St. Joseph's Society.

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Who is S. Joseph?

Joseph, the son of the Patriarch Jacob, was the figure of S. Joseph, the son of another Jacob: "Jacob begot Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called the Christ." (*Matt.* 1.)

What was truly said of the first Joseph, as to his future, and as to his goodness, his chastity, his patience, his wisdom, his influence with the king, his power over the people, and his love for his brethren, is verified much more perfectly even to this day, in the second Joseph.

Of old it was said to the needy and suffering people in the kingdom of Egypt: "Go to Joseph, and do all that he shall say to you." (*Gen.* xli.)

The same is now said by the Sovereign Pontiff to all needy and suffering people in the kingdom of the Church—"Go to Joseph."

If you labor for your bread; if you have a family to support; if you endure privation and suffering; if your heart is searched by trials at home; if you are assailed by some importunate

temptation; if your faith is sorely tested, and your hope seems lost in darkness and disappointment; if you have yet to learn to love and serve Jesus and Mary, as you ought, JOSEPH, the Head of the House, the Husband of Mary, the nursing Father of Jesus—JOSEPH is your model, your teacher, and your father. Truly, in all things, S. JOSEPH is the people's friend.

But once more you ask:

Who is S. Joseph?

He is the adopted father of the GOD-MAN: *S. Luke.*

He is the most faithful coadjutor of the Incarnation: *S. Bernard.*

He is one whose office belongs to the order of the hypostatic Union: *Suarez.*

He is the Lord and Master of the Holy Family: *S. Bernardine.*

He is the only one found worthy among men to be the spouse of MARY: *S. Greg.*

He is the consoler of MARY in her sorrows and trials: *S. Bernard.*

He is the Savior of the life of the Infant JESUS: *S. Matt.*

He is the Savior of the honour of His Mother: *S. Jerome.*

He is the man who lived 30 years with JESUS and MARY.

He is the man more beloved by JESUS and MARY than all other creatures: *S. Isidore.*

He is the third person of the earthly Trinity: *Gerson.*

He is the model and image of apostolic men: *S. Hilary.*

He is more an angel than a man in conduct: *à Lapide.*

He is the model of priests and superiors: *Albertus Mag.*

He is the master of prayer and of the interior life: *S. Teresa. Lallemant.*

He is the guardian of chastity, and the honour of virginity: *S. Augustine.*

He is the leader in the great procession of the afflicted: *Avila.*

He is the patron of the married state: *Paul de Pal.*

He is the procurator of the Church of God: *In parv. off. St. Jos.*

He is the patron of a happy death: *S. Alphonsus.*

He is the patron of the Catholic Church: *Decree S.C.R.*

Who is S. Joseph?

S. Teresa shall tell us; listen to her words; she is giving the experience of her own life:

"I took for my Patron and Lord the glorious S. Joseph, and recommended myself earnestly to him. I saw clearly that this my Father and Lord delivered me out of this, and other troubles of greater importance, touching my honour and my soul. He rendered me greater services than I knew how to ask for. I cannot call to mind that I have at any time asked him for anything which he has not granted; and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favours God has granted me through this blessed Saint, and the dangers from which he has delivered me, both of body and soul.

"To other Saints our Lord seems to have given grace to succour men in some special necessity; but to this glorious Saint, I know it by experience, He has given the grace to help us in all things. Our Lord would have us understand that as He was subject to Joseph on earth (S. Joseph bearing the title of His father, and being His guardian, could command Him), so now Our Lord in Heaven grants all his petitions.

"I have asked others to recommend themselves to S. Joseph, and they too know the same thing by experience.

"I used to keep his feast with all the solemnity I could.

"Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious Saint; for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known anyone who was really devout to him and who honoured him by particular services, who did not visibly grow more and more in virtue: for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him. It is now some years since I have always on his feast asked him for something, and I always have it. If the petition be in any way amiss, he directs it aright for my greater good.

"If I were a person who had authority to write, it would be a pleasure to me to be diffusive in speaking most minutely of the graces which this glorious Saint has obtained for me and for others. But I ask for the love of God that he who does not believe me will make the trial for himself—when he will find out by experience the great good that results from commending oneself to this glorious Patriarch and in being devout to him.

"Those who give themselves to prayer should in a special manner always have great devotion to S. JOSEPH; for I know not how any man can think of the Queen of Angels, during the time that she suffered so much with the Infant JESUS, without giving thanks to JOSEPH for the services he rendered them then. He who cannot find anyone to teach him how to pray, let him take this glorious Saint for his master, and he will not wander out of the way."—*S. Teresa's Life, by herself, c. vi.*

"Go, *then, to* JOSEPH, *and do all that he shall say to you:*"

Go to JOSEPH, and obey him as JESUS and MARY obeyed him;

Go to JOSEPH, and speak to him as They spoke to him;

Go to JOSEPH, and consult him as They consulted him;

Go to JOSEPH, and honour him as They honoured him;

Go to JOSEPH, and be grateful to him as They were grateful to him;

Go to JOSEPH, and love him as They loved him, and as They love him still.

However much you love JOSEPH, your love will always fall short of the extraordinary love which JESUS and MARY bore to him. On the other hand, the love of JOSEPH necessarily leads us to JESUS and MARY. He was the first Christian to whom it was said, "Take the Child and His Mother." This led a father of the Church to say, "You will always find JESUS with MARY and JOSEPH."

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH.

O dearest St. Joseph! I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my Father, my Protector and my Guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart, and a fervent love of the interior life. After thy example may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary! And do thou, O blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. *Amen.*

THOUGHTS AND EXAMPLES FOR EVERY DAY IN THE MONTH.

FIRST DAY.

"*The venerable Bishops of the whole Catholic world, in their own name and in the name of their flocks, humbly begged the Sovereign Pontiff to deign to declare St. Joseph to be the Patron of the Catholic Church. The Bishops in the Sacred General Council of the Vatican renewed their petitions with increased urgency . . . wherefore the Holy Father has solemnly proclaimed him to be the Patron of the Catholic Church.*"—(Decree of the Cong. of Rites 8 Dec. 1870)

EXAMPLE.—The Catholics of England have ever shown great devotion to St. Joseph He was with them in the days of persecution. During the Vatican Council they sent a petition to the Holy See, signed by nearly 200,000 names, begging that the guardian of Jesus and Mary might be solemnly declared Patron not of England only but of the Universal Church.

SECOND DAY.

St. Teresa, in her autobiography, writes, "*I wish I could persuade everybody to be devout to this glorious Saint, from the great experience I have of the benefits he obtains for us from God. I have never known any one truly devout to him and rendering him special service, who did not advance greatly in virtue; for he wonderfully helps on the souls that commend themselves to him.*"—(Life of St. Teresa, c. vi.)

EXAMPLE.—St. Teresa wrote of herself, "For many years on the day of his feast I have always asked him for something, and my prayer is always heard; and if my prayer is not altogether right, he puts it right for my greater good. Were I a person writing with authority, I would gladly go on into minute details of the favors which this glorious Saint has shown not only to me, but also to other persons."

THIRD DAY.

St. Joseph has received all power necessary for the salvation of souls. He who is truly devout to St. Joseph may feel sure of salvation. Holy Church sings in the hymn of his feast that "*God gave him to us to be the minister of our salvation.*" (Brev. 19 March.) And on the feast of his Patronage, she declares that *God made Joseph to be as it were the father of the King, and the master of His whole house, and that He has exalted him in order that he may be the salvation of many.*—(Brev. in Pat. S. Jos.)

EXAMPLE.—Isidore of Isolano relates that a venerable priest told him of a noble who was accustomed to say a short prayer every day before a picture of S. Joseph that was painted on the wall of a church. After many years he fell ill. One day, while perfectly awake, and his mind perfectly clear, he saw St. Joseph enter his room, just as he was represented in the picture. The Saint, by a few words, opened in his soul a fountain of contrition for his sins; the sick man sent at once for a priest, made his confession, and died in perfect peace.

FOURTH DAY.

The venerable Suarez, one of the greatest theologians of the Church, speaks thus of St. Joseph: "*I do not think the opinion that this Saint excels all other Saints in grace and beatitude is rash or improbable, but on the contrary pious and truthlike. . . . The ministry of St. Joseph is more perfect in kind than that of the apostolate, because it belongs to the order of the hypostatic union.*"—(Suarez, 3 p. q. 29, sect. 8.) How powerful must he be to help us in all our troubles!

EXAMPLE.—St. Jane Frances de Chantal used to carry on her breast a little picture of the Holy Family, and when she was in trouble she used to apply it to her heart. "It is good," she would say, "to carry our friends about with us." She did not like to see the three persons of this Earthly Trinity separated. Her delight was to unite them in one picture: where there was a picture of one of these Persons she always wished to add to it a picture of the other two.

FIFTH DAY.

St. Joseph's heart was full of an extraordinary reference for the Infant Jesus. "*The mother laid Him in the manger. Joseph bending over contemplated Him; his heart was full of joy at His nativity, but he durst not venture to touch the Holy Infant.*" —(St. John Chrysostom, Hom. in nat. Dom.)

EXAMPLE.—The celebrated Father Balthazar Alvarez, when kneeling in prayer in the holy house of Loreto, was advised by the Blessed Virgin to cultivate a great devotion towards her most pure spouse, St. Joseph. He was given to understand that St. Joseph would be of the greatest help to him in the way of perfection.

SIXTH DAY.

"O, what an union was that between our Lady and the glorious St. Joseph! Through this union Our Lord belonged to Joseph as he belonged to our Lady, not according to nature, but according to grace; for this union gave him a participation in all that belonged to his most dear spouse. Mary was like a mirror, receiving perfectly into her soul the rays of the Eternal Sun of Justice; the soul of Joseph was like another mirror opposite the first, receiving perfectly into his soul the reflected rays."—(St. Francis of Sales, Entretien xix.) If we are devout to Joseph we shall belong to Mary.

EXAMPLE.—Father Gauchon, a Marist, spent most of his time and resources in propagating devotion to St. Joseph He used to say:—"This great patriarch took charge of the Son of God, he will therefore know well how to take charge of us." He used also to say;—"By devotion to St. Joseph, I have acquired devotion to Mary." He died with his picture in his hands.

SEVENTH DAY.

"*If you compare Joseph to the whole Church of Christ, do you not see that he is a man specially chosen by God, through whom and under whom Christ was fittingly and honourably introduced into the world? If, therefore, the holy church is a debtor to the Virgin Mother because through her she was made worthy to receive Christ, in like manner, after Mary, the church owes special honour and reverence to Joseph.*"—(S. Bernardine of Siena, Serm. de S. Jos. a 2, c. 2.) Let us go to the man specially chosen by God.

EXAMPLE.—St. Bernardine with permission of the Holy See instituted a reform in the Franciscan order. In a general chapter he placed all the reformed houses under the care of St. Joseph, and he called upon all his religious to pay particular devotion to the foster-father of Jesus. He gave to the new province, as a seal with which all documents were to be stamped, St. Joseph bearing the Holy Infant in his arms.

EIGHTH DAY.

St. Joseph is the patron and model of apostolic men. He carried the Child and His Mother up and down the world, and was driven from place to place, an angel always directing him. '*His life was typical, he was like the apostles 'apostolorum habet speciem) to whose care Christ was confided to be carried over the world.*"—(St. Hilary in Matt. c. ii.) O priests of God, imitate St. Joseph.

EXAMPLE.—St. Vincent of Paul used to set St. Joseph before his priests as their model. He made him the patron of his seminaries. He required all his missioners to place themselves and all their labors under St. Joseph, and to spread devotion to him as well as to the Blessed Virgin.

NINTH DAY.

We must all die; let us remember that St. Joseph is the patron of a happy death. "*It is to be piously believed that his holy Spouse and her most loving Son were present at St. Joseph's death. What words of encouragement, what consolation, what light, what knowledge of eternal and heavenly truths did not Joseph, as he was passing away, receive from his most holy spouse, and especially from Jesus, the most sweet Son of God.*"—(S. Bernardine of Siena, Serm. de S. Jos., c. 11.) Assist me in my last agony.

EXAMPLE.—As St. John, the beloved disciple, laid his head on the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the last supper, so St. Joseph, the most beloved foster-father of Jesus, who for so many years had carried Jesus upon his heart, at last laid his aged head upon the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and died, with Mary by his side.

TENTH DAY.

After the dignity of Mother of God, comes that of the foster-father of God. After Mary comes Joseph. "*If he who adopts a child, not born of his spouse, is rightly called father, with how much more reason is Joseph called father of Jesus Christ, who was actually by the power of the Holy Ghost born of his most chaste Spouse! For what reason does the Gospel call Joseph the father of Christ, but because he was the true spouse of the Mother of Christ.*"—(St. Augustine, de Consens, Evang., 1, 2., c. 1.) Ask him to be a father to you.

EXAMPLE.—St. Teresa used always to speak of St. Joseph as her father. He watched over her in sickness, and when she had been paralyzed, and the doctors for three years and a half had exhausted all their resources on her, he appeared to her and cured her. He watched over all her temporal concerns, and found money for her when it was not to be found by anyone else. He watched over her spiritual life, and taught her how to pray. Many others have also regarded St. Joseph as their father. Why should not you do the same?

ELEVENTH DAY.

"*If princes of this earth are most careful in choosing a tutor for their son, taking every pains to procure the very best that can be found, think you that God, in whose hands is the formation of all men, did not select from among his creatures, the man who of all others was the most perfectly qualified to be the guardian of his Eternal Son, the Lord of heaven and earth?*" (St. Francis of Sales, Entretien xix.)

EXAMPLE.—St. Francis of Sales was enamoured of the great patriarch St. Joseph. He dedicated his writings to him; he kept but one picture in his breviary, that of St. Joseph; he always spoke of him as his father; he could refuse nothing asked in his name. And once he said to a person, "Do you not know that I belong altogether to St. Joseph? Happy you, if you can say as much."

TWELFTH DAY.

"*Joseph folded in his arms and embraced the Son of God under the appearance of a little child; he tendered Him a thousand services knowing that this Boy was God. Who, he said, has so honoured me that the Son of the Most High should be my Son? The crown of David is restored to me now that the Lord of Kings has come into my arms.*"—(St. Ephrem, Serm. in Nat. Dom.) Love Jesus and Jesus will stay with you.

EXAMPLE.—The most devoted person to St. Joseph that ever was or will be, is He who knew him best, namely, Jesus. For thirty years Jesus was subject to Joseph; He obeyed, He honoured, He loved him with all the filial affection of a child for a father. He set us an example that we may walk in His footsteps.

THIRTEENTH DAY.

What honour, what glory to be the husband of Mary! If ever marriage was made in heaven it was this. God chose for the spouse of the Queen of Heaven one who was most fit for this relationship, one most like to her not only in temporal rank and condition, but in all spiritual gifts and virtues. "*The priests were divinely guided in choosing Joseph for Mary's husband.*"—(St. Greg. Nyssen. Orat. in nat. Dni.)

EXAMPLE.—Innumerable good Catholics of both sexes recommend themselves to the care of St. Joseph when they are engaged in the anxious duty of choosing a state of life. Daily experience proves how good St. Joseph is in helping people, in the midst of great perplexities, to settle prudently and happily in life. He is the patron of the married state.

FOURTEENTH DAY.

"*By the grace of God every good Christian is now devout to St. Joseph, but most assuredly they receive the greatest graces, who most frequently recommend themselves to him with the greatest confidence in his power and protection. Let us seek graces from him, for he will certainly obtain them for us, if useful to our soul.*"—(St. Alphonsus, on St. Jos.)

EXAMPLE.—St. Teresa is a perfect example of devotion to St. Joseph. She says in her life, "I do not remember ever having asked him for anything without obtaining it. It is wonderful, the number of graces God has granted me by means of this Saint, and the dangers from which he has delivered me both of body and soul."

FIFTEENTH DAY.

Gratitude and love of Jesus and Mary should make us love Joseph. "*I know not how any one can think of the Queen of Angels during the time she was so occupied with the infancy of Jesus, without giving thanks to St. Joseph for all the help that he gave during that time to the Mother and to the Child.*"—(St. Teresa, Life, c. vi.)

EXAMPLE.—The first devotees of St Joseph, says Gerson, were Jesus and Mary. They were dependent upon him for food, clothing, shelter, and every kind of protection. Joseph was the saviour of Mary's honor before the world; he was also the saviour of His Saviour's life. The return of love and service made by Jesus and Mary were not merely in proportion to what they had received, but in proportion to the riches of their own power and goodness. What examples for our imitation!

SIXTEENTH DAY.

"*The marriage of Mary and Joseph was a most true marriage, contracted by divine inspiration; it was the marriage of two souls bound together in the closest union. Can any reasonable person imagine that the Holy Ghost would have united to the soul of such a Virgin, any other soul than the one which most resembled her in all virtues and good works?*"—(St. Bernardine of Siena, Serm. S. Jos., c. 1.) How great is the love of Mary for Joseph!

EXAMPLE.—St. Teresa relates, in the 33rd chapter of her Foundations, that upon the feast of the Assumption, she miraculously saw herself clothed in a white and shining mantle by the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph, as a sign that her sins were forgiven. Filled with spiritual joy she felt herself holding the hands of the Blessed Virgin, who said to her that she was greatly pleased to see her so intent upon devotion and service to her holy spouse, and that she should obtain what she asked for in the business of her convent.

SEVENTEENTH DAY.

The grace of all graces is the love of God. Now St. Alphonsus, that great doctor of the church, says: "*Hold this for certain, that the most special grace which St. Joseph obtains for his clients is a tender love for the Incarnate Word, by the tender love which the Saint himself bore to Him in this world.*" (Serm. on St. Jos.)

EXAMPLE.—St. Joseph is the most perfect example, after Mary, of love for Jesus. The command of the angel, "Take the Child and His Mother," was fulfilled in the heart of Joseph more perfectly than in any other creature. Never were they absent from his mind and heart. He was wholly absorbed in their love and contemplation. St. Francis of Sales and other learned ascetics hold that the parting in death of St. Joseph's soul and body was caused by an act of sweetest love.

EIGHTEENTH DAY.

"*What a happiness for St. Joseph*," exclaims St. Bernard, "*not only to see Jesus Christ, but also to hear Him, to carry Him in his arms, to lead Him from place to place, to embrace and caress Him, to feed and clothe Him, and to be privy to all the great secrets which were concealed from the great ones of the world!*"—(Super missus) In the smallest details Joseph thought of Jesus.

EXAMPLE.—St. Joseph's poor cloak was often used to protect the Divine Infant from the cold; now in the manger, now on the wayside; and now St. Joseph would carry Him under his cloak. You may imitate this example by giving some of your own clothing to the poor, and by clothing Jesus with a mystical mantle, made up of charity and other virtues.

NINETEENTH DAY.

"*O astonishing elevation! O unparalleled dignity! that the Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, shall call you her 'Lord': that God Himself made man should call you 'Father,' and obey your commands. O glorious Trinity on earth,* JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH, *how dear a family to the glorious Trinity in heaven,* FATHER, SON *and* HOLY GHOST! *Nothing on earth is so great, so good, so excellent.*"—(Gerson, Serm. in Nat.)

EXAMPLE.—Many devout souls have begged of St. Joseph, as head of the Holy Family, to receive them as humblest servants into His Family: and have even taken a vow to pay to Jesus, Mary and Joseph a daily special honour and service in recognition of their position and duty as servants of the Holy Family.

TWENTIETH DAY.

"*People given to prayer ought to have a particular affection for St. Joseph. Let him, who has not found a master to teach him how to pray, take this glorious saint for his master, and he will not go astray.*"—(St. Teresa, Life, c. vi.) We all desire to become men of prayer; but of ourselves we can do nothing.

EXAMPLE.—The great masters of prayer and of the spiritual life, such as St. Teresa, St. Peter of Alcantara, St. John of the Cross, St. Alphonsus, St. Paul of the Cross, the venerable Fr. Lallement, and entire Religious Orders, such as the Carmelites, the Franciscans, the Lazarists, the Redemptorists, and others, honour St. Joseph as the special patron of prayer and of the spiritual life.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

"*The name of Father of the Son of God was never given to any angel; it was refused to every man but one—to that one it was freely given, together with the affection and authority of a father.*"—(St. John Damascene.) What a singular privilege and honour for a man to be related to the Son of God by the title of father!

EXAMPLE.—St. Vincent Ferrers relates that a certain man in Valencia used every year, on Christmas Day, to give hospitality to a poor woman with an infant and to an aged man, in honour of the Holy Family; and that when he was on the point of death, Jesus, Mary and Joseph appeared to him and said: "Thou hast often invited us to thy home and table; come now, good and faithful servant, and we will conduct thee to our home in Paradise."

TWENTY-SECOND DAY.

"I affirm that Joseph was ever a virgin as well as Mary, and that in their virginal marriage a Virgin Son was born. Joseph continued to be a virgin with Mary, and by his virginity was worthy to be called the father of the Lord"—(St. Jerom. Adv. Helvid. n. 19.) By his virginity Joseph has become the special patron of chastity.

EXAMPLE.—St. Margaret, the wonderful penitent of Cortona, attributed her conversion and sanctification to the great St. Joseph. Our Lord one day appeared to her and said: "I desire thee to pay daily some special mark of devotion and praise to my holy foster-father, for blessed are the clean of heart, because they shall become worthy to see God." She used to recite a hundred *Paters* daily in his honor, and perform the most severe penances. St. Joseph assisted her to overcome the most terrible impure temptations, and such were her prayers and penances that our Lord assured her that her sins were entirely forgiven and that, in spite of her past sins, He would rank her in chastity among the virgins.

TWENTY-THIRD DAY.

"*As Mary is the Queen of Saints and of Angels, so by law Joseph is the King of Saints and of Angels. If you often honour the Virgin by the title, Queen of Saints, Queen of Angels, pray for us—so ought you in the same way to honour Joseph by saying—King of Saints, King of Angels, pray for us.*"—(Blessed Leonard on St. Joseph.)

EXAMPLE.—In England, at the present moment, how many bishops, priests and nuns have consecrated themselves and their undertakings to this glorious Saint! Their practical and daily experience proves beyond the power of words the wondrous goodness and protection of St. Joseph. Truly St. Joseph behaves like a king to those who serve him.

TWENTY-FOURTH DAY.

"*God has ordained that Joseph should be the special advocate of every class of persons and the universal intercessor, so that all classes and persons may feel themselves beholden to him for something.*"—(Blessed Leonard, On S. Joseph.)

EXAMPLE.—Cosmo, one of the sovereign princes of Tuscany, was so devout to St. Joseph, and so persuaded of the power of his intercession, that on one occasion he took off his crown, and placing it on the head of the statue of St. Joseph, consecrated all his subjects to this great patriarch, thus placing the whole country under the Saint's special patronage.

TWENTY-FIFTH DAY.

The Church, or rather the Holy Ghost, declares of St. Joseph that God Himself *has made him the Lord of his House and the Prince of all His possessions.* (Breviary.) This position of St. Joseph brings him into direct relationship with every true Christian. What then can this Lord and Prince so much desire as the salvation of souls, which form Christ's household and his dearest possessions?

EXAMPLE.—The Emperor Leopold I chose St. Joseph to be the patron of the house of Austria. He raised a statue of massive silver to his honour, and had public processions made for eight consecutive days in order to move St. Joseph to obtain for him an heir to the throne. His prayer was heard, and he named his son Joseph. In gratitude he wished to raise another statue to the Saint, but he died before he was able to do so. His son fulfilled his father's vow on the 19th March, 1709.

TWENTY-SIXTH DAY.

"*It seems that the Lord has granted to the other Saints the grace to help us in some particular cases, but to this glorious Saint the power to help us in everything, as I have experienced. The Lord wishes to show us that as Joseph was called His Father, and commanded Him on earth, so now in heaven He grants whatever he asks.*"—(St. Teresa, Life, c. vi.)

We read in the life of St. Peter of Alcantara, that a certain noble family being much grieved that God had given them no heir, the Saint desired them to recommend themselves to St. Joseph, saying that he had himself received many favours from the most pure spouse of Our Lady. The marchesa did more; she felt inspired to make a vow to build a convent and dedicate it to St. Joseph, if her prayer were heard. It was heard, she had a son, and she built the convent; in course of time three other sons were born to her.

TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

As Joseph stood by the side of Simeon, he heard and understood the terrible words of the prophecy: *This child shall be set up as a sign to be contradicted, and the heart of His Mother shall be pierced with a sword of sorrow.* He pondered these words all his life and suffered a double sorrow, through his inexpressibly tender love for Jesus and for Mary. St. Joseph is pleased when we honour his sorrows as well as his joys.

EXAMPLE.—A ship containing a number of passengers was wrecked off the coast of Holland. Two Franciscan friars who had clung to a plank for two days, were saved by a man of venerable appearance, who miraculously brought them to shore. Upon their asking him who he was, he replied, "I am Joseph, and I desire you to honour my seven sorrows and seven joys." This was the origin of the indulgenced devotion to the sorrows and joys of St. Joseph.

TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY.

"*Joseph was the mysterious veil which covered the virginity of Mary and the splendour of the Saviour of souls. He saw Jesus and was silent; he tasted Him and spoke not; he fulfilled his vocation as the minister and companion of the Hidden Life.*"—(Bossuet, On St Joseph.) St. Joseph was a cloud, luminous with the golden light of the Sun, which it shadowed for a time from men.

EXAMPLE.—St. Frances of Rome was favoured with a vision of the Holy Family in Bethlehem. She beheld St. Joseph in the stable, absorbed in silent contemplation of the Incarnate Son of God. St. Joseph spoke few words with his lips, but his mind and heart were ever intent upon Jesus and Mary. He united most perfectly the contemplative with the active life.

TWENTY-NINTH DAY.

"*How dear art thou to God, O incomparable Joseph! since He confided to thee these three great treasures, the virginity of Mary, the Person of His only Son, and the secret of the whole mystery of the Incarnation.*"—(Bossuet, On St. Joseph.) O that I might learn from thee, fidelity to the graces which God offers to me for my sanctification and salvation!

EXAMPLE.—St. Francis Borgia said that we ought to examine closely into the life of St. Joseph, and that we shall therein find a perfect example of obedience to the holy inspirations with which God is wont to visit the soul.

THIRTIETH DAY.

"*On account of the great dignity and position granted by God to St. Joseph, the Church holds him in the highest honour and praise, after the Blessed Virgin, and by an act of preference directs her prayers to him in her necessities.*"—(Decree of 8 Dec., 1870.)

EXAMPLE.—Many of the Popes have entertained a particular devotion to St. Joseph. Innocent XI made him the patron of the Jesuit Missions in China; Clement X composed in his honour the beautiful hymn *Te Joseph;* Clement XI recomposed his office; Benedict XIII inserted his name in the Litany; Benedict XIV established the feast of the Patronage; Pius IX declared him to be the patron of the Catholic Church; and Leo XIII has the greatest devotion to him, and often refers to him in his Apostolic Letters.

THIRTY-FIRST DAY.

"*Joseph is the model of the Prelates who govern the Church.*" (Albertus Magnus in 1 Luc.) "*Thou* (*Joseph*) *shalt be over my house, and at the commandment of thy mouth all the people shall obey. . . Go to Joseph and do all that he shall say to you.*"—(Gen. xli.) These words, spoken of the first Joseph, were perfected in the second.

EXAMPLE.—Bishops and Prelates naturally have recourse to St. Joseph when it is a question of making laws for the government or reform of the Church. St. Peter of Alcantara wrote to St. Teresa to say that he had placed his Province and his Reform under the same great Saint, for he had experienced great help and consolation in all he had done, and had received many graces in consequence.

THE SEVEN SORROWS AND SEVEN JOYS.

WHEREBY ST. JOSEPH BECAME THE MORE CLOSELY UNITED TO JESUS AND MARY.

(*To be said during the Novenas before his feasts, &c.*)

I. St. Joseph, pure spouse of most holy Mary, the trouble and anguish of thy heart were great, when, being in sore perplexity, thou wast minded to put away thy stainless spouse; but thy joy was inexpressible when the archangel revealed to thee the high mystery of the Incarnation.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, we pray thee comfort our souls now, and in their last pains, with the consolation of a well-spent life, and a holy death like unto thine own, with Jesus and Mary at our side.

Pater, Ave, and Gloria.

[A Stanza of a hymn may be sung after each *Gloria.*]

II. St. Joseph, blessed Patriarch, chosen to the office of Father of the Word made Man, thy pain was keen when thou didst see the Infant Jesus born in abject poverty; but thy pain was changed into heavenly joy when thou didst hear the harmony of angel-choirs, and behold the glory of that night.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, we pray thee obtain for us that, when the journey of our life is ended, we too may pass to that blessed land where we shall hear the angel-chants and rejoice in the bright light of heavenly glory. *Pater, Ave, and Gloria.*

III. St. Joseph, ever most obedient in executing the law of God, thy heart was pierced with pain when the Precious Blood of the Infant Saviour was shed at his circumcision; but the name of Jesus brought the new life and heavenly joy.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, obtain for us, that, being freed in life from every vice, we too may cheerfully die, with the sweet name of Jesus in our hearts and on our lips. *Pater, Ave, and Gloria.*

IV. St. Joseph, faithful Saint, partner in the mysteries of man's redemption, the prophecy of Simeon foretelling the sufferings of Jesus and Mary caused thee a pang like that of death; but at the same time, his prediction of the salvation and glorious resurrection of innumerable souls, filled thee with the greatest joy.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, help us with thy prayers to be of the number of those who, by the merits of Jesus and the intercession of His Virgin Mother, shall be partakers of the Resurrection to Glory. *Pater, Ave, and Gloria.*

V. St. Joseph, watchful guardian and intimate friend of the Incarnate Son of God, how greatly didst thou toil to nurture and to serve the Son of the Most High, especially in the flight thou madest with Him into Egypt! but how great thy joy in having God himself always with thee, and in seeing the overthrow of the idols of Egypt.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, obtain for us the grace to keep far out of the reach of the enemy of our souls, by quitting all dangerous occasions, that so no idol of earthly affection may any longer occupy our hearts, but that, being, like thee, entirely devoted to the service of Jesus and Mary, we may live and die for them alone. *Pater, &c.*

VI. St. Joseph, angel on earth, who didst so marvel to see the King of Heaven obedient to thy bidding, if the consolation of thy heart, on bearing Him home, was disturbed by the fear of Archelaus, yet, being reassured by the angel, thou didst return with joy and dwell most peacefully in Nazareth, in the company of Jesus and of Mary.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, obtain for us, that, having our hearts freed from idle fears, we may enjoy the peace of a tranquil conscience, dwelling safely with Jesus and Mary, and dying at last in their arms. *Pater, &c.*

VII. St. Joseph, bright example of every virtue, in great sorrow thou didst search for Jesus, the Holy Child, for three long days, until with joy unspeakable thou didst find Him, who was thy life, amidst the doctors in the temple.

By this thy sorrow and thy joy, we pray thee with our whole heart so to interpose in our behalf that we may never lose Jesus by mortal sin; and if (which God avert) we are at any time so wretched as to lose Him, then we pray thee, aid us to seek Him with such ceaseless sorrow until we find Him, particularly in the hour of our death, that we may pass from this life to enjoy Him for ever in heaven, there to sing with thee His divine mercies without end. *Pater*, *&c.*

Ant. Jesus Himself was about thirty years old, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph.

V. Pray for us, Holy Joseph,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, who in Thine ineffable providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the husband of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our holy protector. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

i. AN INDULGENCE OF 100 DAYS once a day.

ii. AN INDULGENCE OF 300 DAYS, every Wednesday in the year, and every day of the two novenas preceding the two feasts of St. Joseph.

iii. A PLENARY INDULGENCE, on each of these two feasts after confession and communion.

iv. A PLENARY INDULGENCE once a month after confession, communion and prayer according to the intention of the Soverign Pontiff, to all who say these prayers daily for a month.

THE SEVEN SUNDAYS OF ST. JOSEPH.

Gregory XVI and Pius IX granted the following indulgences to all the faithful who say the devotion of the *Seven Sorrows and Seven Joys* on any seven consecutive Sundays of the year, viz.:—

i. 300 Days' Indulgence on each of these Sundays.

ii. A Plenary Indulgence on the seventh, after confession, communion, and prayers for the Sovereign Pontiff. *S. C. Ind.*, 22*nd Jan.*, 1836.

iii. A Plenary Indulgence on each of the seven Sundays kept as above in honour of the holy Patriarch St. Joseph, at any time in the year whatever, provided only they be kept consecutively, and provided also the usual conditions are observed of confession, communion, visit to a church, and prayer according to the mind of His Holiness. The same indulgence is also granted to the poor and illiterate, wherever this devotion is not publicly practised, provided only they say seven *Pater Nosters*, seven *Ave Marias*, and seven *Gloria Patris*, instead of the prayers above enjoined, and provided also they fulfill the other prescribed conditions. *Feb.* 1, 1847. *Mar.* 22, 1847.

THE PRAISES OF ST. JOSEPH.

(Composed by the Ven. Olier.)

Hail Joseph, image of God the Father,
Hail Joseph, father of God the Son,
Hail Joseph, treasury of the Holy Spirit,
Hail Joseph, delight of the Blessed Trinity,
Hail Joseph, most faithful coadjutor of the Incarnation,
Hail Joseph, most worthy spouse of the Virgin Mary,
Hail Joseph, father of all the faithful,
Hail Joseph, guardian of holy virgins,
Hail Joseph, greatest lover of poverty,
Hail Joseph, example of meekness and patience,
Hail Joseph, mirror of humility and obedience;
And blessed be thy eyes which have seen the things which thou hast seen.
Blessed art thou above all men:
And blessed be thy ears, which have heard the things which thou hast heard;
And blessed be thy hands, which have touched and handled the Incarnate Word;
And blessed be thy arms, which have carried Him who carries all things;
And blessed be thy breast, on which the Son of God most sweetly rested;
And blessed be thy heart, inflamed with burning love;
And BLESSED be the ETERNAL FATHER, who chose thee;
And BLESSED be the SON, who loved thee;
And BLESSED be the HOLY SPIRIT, who sanctified thee;
And blessed be thy spouse Mary, who loved thee as a spouse and a brother;
And blessed be the angel who watched over thee;
And blessed be for ever all who bless and love thee;

Amen.

TRIDUUM FOR THE GAINING OF SOME SPECIAL GRACE.

I. Most loving spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and my dearest advocate, St. Joseph, I humbly have recourse to thee through those seven most bitter sorrows which transfixed thy heart during the course of thy mortal life, and with tears in my eyes I commend to thee this affair which I have so much at heart. Obtain for me, O great Saint, this ardently-desired favour, in memory of the most affectionate care thou didst receive from Mary during the agony which preceded thy precious death. Present me before her throne of pity, and say to her: "Have pity, O Mary, on this poor creature, for the love which I bore to thee as my beloved spouse" *Pater*, *Ave*, *Gloria*.

II. Most loving foster-father of Jesus, my Redeemer, I suppliantly fly to thee by the seven joys which overflowed thy heart, and I recommend to thee this affair which so occupies my thoughts. Obtain for me, O great saint, this much desired favour, in memory of that wonderful consolation which Jesus gave thee during the last hours of thy life on earth. Present me before his most kind

and generous throne, and say to Him: "Have pity, O Jesus, have pity on this poor creature, for the love which I bore to Thee as my most dearly beloved Son." *Pater, &c.*

III. O most faithful guardian on earth of heavenly treasures, my most loving father and advocate, St. Joseph, I have devout recourse to thee, through the riches and splendour of the high gifts and favours thou hast received in heaven. I recommend to thee with full and open heart this affair which is before me. Obtain for me, O great saint and blessed father, this favour, which I implore in memory of the ineffable glory into which thou wast taken by the Blessed Trinity, as soon as heaven was opened to thee by Jesus. Present me before the most clement throne of God, and say: "O blessed Trinity, pity this poor creature, for the humble reverence and love I bore to Thee on earth, and for this most sublime degree of glory with which it has pleased Thee to honour me in heaven." *Pater, Ave, Gloria.*

ST. JOSEPH'S MEMORARE.

Remember, O most pure spouse of the blessed Virgin Mary, my sweet protector, St. Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy mediation without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in thy goodness, I come into thy presence and fervently recommend myself to thy care and protection. Oh, despise not, most loving foster-father of my Redeemer, the petition of thy humble client, but graciously hear and grant it. Amen.

300 DAYS: applicable to the souls in purgatory. *June* 26, 1863.

PETITION FOR HOLY PURITY.

Guardian of virgins, and holy father Joseph, to whose faithful custody Christ Jesus, Innocence itself, and Mary, Virgin of virgins, were committed; I pray and beseech Thee, by these dear pledges Jesus and Mary, that being preserved from all uncleanness, I may with spotless mind, pure heart, and chaste body, ever most chastely serve Jesus and Mary all the days of my life. Amen.

An indulgence of one year.

THE PRIEST'S PRAYER.

Thrice happy man, blessed Joseph, to whom it was granted to see and to hear that which many kings desired to see and did not see, to hear and did not hear,—and not only to see and to hear,—but to carry, to caress, to clothe, and to protect!

V. Pray for us, O blessed Joseph.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, who has given to us thy servants a royal priesthood; grant, we beseech Thee, that as blessed Joseph deserved reverently to touch with his hands, and to bear in his arms, Thine only-begotten Son, born of Mary the Virgin, so may we be prepared by Thy grace to serve at Thy holy altar with a clean heart and innocent life, and thus this day worthily receive the holy Body and Blood of Thy Son, and in the world to come deserve an eternal reward. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AN INDULGENCE OF ONE YEAR to priests who shall say the above before Mass.

INVOCATIONS OF THE HOLY FAMILY.

JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH, I give you my heart and my soul.

JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH, assist me in my last agony.

JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH, may I breathe forth my soul to you in peace.

300 days' indulgence.

S. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for us.

100 DAYS' INDULGENCE, once a day. *Pius IX.*, *3rd June*, 1874.

To all members of S. Joseph's Society, for saying *three Glorias* and

S. Joseph, pray for the heathen.

300 Days, each time; and PLEN. INDULGENCE once a month, if they pray after communion for the conversion of the heathen.—*Leo XIII.*

MONTH OF MARCH.

Pius IX, by a rescript, June 11, 1855, granted to those who dedicate the entire month of March to the honor of S. Joseph.

300 DAYS' INDULGENCE each day of the month.

A PLENARY INDULGENCE, on any one day, on condition of confession and communion, and prayer for the Pope's intention.

He granted also the same indulgences to those who, being unable to dedicate March, shall dedicate any other month to the honor of S. Joseph.

By a decree, April 27, 1865, he extended the same indulgences to any practice of devotion whatever, performed on each day of March, as he had done for any pious practice during May, in honour of the blessed Virgin.

Also by a decree, Feb. 4, 1877, he declared that the same indulgences can be gained by the faithful who begin the said exercise of devotion, so as to end it on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19th.

THIRTY DAYS' PRAYER.

IN HONOUR OF THE THIRTY YEARS SPENT WITH JESUS AND MARY.

For any Special Intention.

Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, kind and indulgent father, and compassionate friend of all in sorrow! through that bitter grief, with which thy heart was saturated when thou didst behold the sufferings of the Infant Saviour, and in prophetic views did contemplate his most ignominious passion and death, take pity, I beseech thee, on my povertics and necessities, counsel me in my doubts, and console me in all my anxieties. Thou art the good father and protector of orphans, the advocate of the defenceless, the patron of those who are in need and desolation. Do not then disregard the petition of thy poor child; my sins have drawn down upon me the just displeasure of my God, and hence I am surrounded with sorrows. To thee, O loving guardian of the poor neglected family of Nazareth, do I fly for shelter and protection.

Listen then, I entreat of thee, with a father's solicitude, to the earnest prayer of Thy poor supplicant, and obtain for me the object of my petition. I ask it by that infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, which induced Him to assume our nature, and to be born into this world of sorrow. I ask it by

that grief which filled thy heart, when ignorant of the mystery wrought in thy Immaculate Spouse, thou didst fear thou shouldst be separated from her.

I ask it by that weariness, solicitude, and suffering, which thou didst endure when thou soughtest in vain at the inn of Bethlehem a shelter for the Holy Virgin, and a birth-place for the Infant God, and, when being everywhere refused, thou wert obliged to consent that the Queen of Heaven should give birth to the World's Redeemer in a wretched stable.

I ask it by the painful blood-shedding thou didst witness at His circumcision. I ask it by the sweetness and power of that sacred name, JESUS, which thou didst confer on the adorable Infant. I ask it by that mortal anguish inflicted on thee, by the prophecy of holy Simeon, which declared the Child Jesus and His holy Mother to be the future victims of their own great love for us and of our sins. I ask it through that sorrow and anguish which filled thy soul, when the angel declared to thee that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies, from whose impious design thou wert obliged to fly with Him and His blessed Mother into Egypt.

I ask it by all the pains, fatigues and toils of that long and perilous journey. I ask it by all the sorrows thou didst endure when in Egypt, when sometimes thou wert not able, even by the sweat of thy brow, to procure daily food for thy poor family.

I ask it by all thy solicitude to preserve the Sacred Child and His Immaculate Mother, during thy second journey, when thou wert ordered to return to thy native country. I ask it by thy peaceful dwelling in Nazareth, in which so many joys and sorrows were mingled. I ask it by thy extreme affliction, in being three days deprived of the company of the Adorable Child. I ask it by thy joy at finding Him in the temple, and by the unspeakable consolation imparted to thee in the cottage of Nazareth, while living in the society of the Infant Jesus. I ask it by that wonderful condescension, by which He subjected Himself to thy will.

I ask it through that sorrowful foresight thou hadst continually in thy mind, of all the Infant Jesus was to suffer, when thou shouldst be no longer by His side.

I ask it by that painful contemplation, by which thou foresawest those divine infant hands and feet, now so active in serving Thee, one day pierced with cruel nails; that head, which rested gently on thy breast, crowned with sharp thorns; that delicate body, which thou didst tenderly fold in thy mantle and press to thy heart, stripped, mangled, and extended on a cross.

I ask it by that heroic sacrifice of thy will and best affections, by which thou didst offer up to the Eternal Father the last awful moment, when the Man-God was to expire for our salvation.

I ask it by that perfect love and conformity, with which thou didst receive the divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of

Jesus and Mary. I ask it by that exceeding great joy which filled thy soul, when the Redeemer of the world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into the possession of His kingdom, and conducted thee also into it with especial honours. I ask it through Mary's glorious assumption, and through that endless bliss, which with her thou wilt eternally derive from the presence of God.

O, Good Father! I beseech Thee, by all Thy sufferings, sorrows, and joys, hear me, and obtain the grant of my earnest petitions. [*Here name them or reflect on them.*] Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers, all that is useful to them in the designs of God. And finally, my dear patron and father, be thou with me and all who are dear to me, in our last moments, that we may eternally chant the praises of

JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH.

"A blameless life, St. Joseph, may we lead,
By thy kind patronage, from danger freed."

Indulgence of 300 days—Leo XIII.

APPENDIX.

WHERE IS ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY?

St. Joseph's Seminary is located on the S. E. corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and St. Mary's Street, Baltimore, Md., immediately adjoining St. Mary's Seminary. Its students attend the lectures at St. Mary's, receiving together with the diocesan clergy the superior training imparted by the Fathers of St. Sulpice, who are specially devoted to the work of fostering the Priesthood.

St. Joseph's Seminary and Society.

1. St. Joseph's Society is composed of clergy and laity. The former devote themselves to the evangelization of the colored people, while the latter contribute of their means to support the missions.

2. Annual subscribers to the COLORED HARVEST become members of St. Joseph's Society.

3. The yearly subscription is twenty-five cents.

4. Any person willing to undertake the office of Zelator, by getting twenty subscribers, will please address:

REV. JOHN R. SLATTERY,
St. Joseph's Seminary,
Baltimore, Md.

Spiritual Benefits of Membership.

1. The spiritual benefits of membership consist of a participation in the merits of the Missionaries, in their sufferings, labors, and good works; as well as in the prayers daily recited by rule in the Seminary, and in the Holy Sacrifice offered every month for all the members of the Society, living and dead.

2. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for the intentions of all the subscribers to "THE COLORED HARVEST," as often as announced in its columns.

3. A novena of Masses in preparation for the feast of St. Joseph, beginning on March 10th, yearly, will be said for the intentions of the subscribers.

4. A second novena of Masses will also be yearly made for their intentions in preparation for the feast of the patronage of St. Joseph.

5. On the first Friday of every month, Mass will be offered up for the Zelators.

Subscribers may apply all these benefits to the suffering souls.

6. Dead friends may be enrolled.

WHERE THE NEGROES LIVE.

7,000,000 negroes are in the whole United States.

500,000 live in the Northern and Western States from Maine to Oregon.

1,500,000 live in Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas; all formerly slave states.

5,000,000 dwell between the Potomac and the Gulf, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

IN THESE EIGHT STATES THERE ARE AS MANY NEGROES AS WHITES.

WHAT THE NEGROES BELIEVE.

3,000,000 communicants and members all told, are claimed by the various Protestant sects.

200,000 *hardly are Catholics.*

3,000,000 and more, consequently, *have no professed religion:* not indeed from any fault of theirs, for they are naturally a religious people; but because:

"*The little ones ask for bread and there is none to break it to them.*" Lam, iv. 4.

"*Pass over and help us,*" they cry out to us.

NEED OF MISSIONARIES.

"By the bowels of the mercy of God, we beg and implore Priests, as far as they can, to consecrate their thoughts, their time and themselves wholly and entirely, if possible, to the service of the colored people." (*II Plen. Conc. No.* 488.)

"Since the greatest part of the negroes are as yet outside the Fold of Christ, it is a matter of necessity to seek workmen, inflamed with zeal for souls, who will be sent into this part of the Lord's harvest." (*III Plen. Conc. No.*, 239.)

"And seeing the multitudes, He had compassion on them, because they were distressed and lying like sheep that have no shepherd. Then He saith to His disciples, The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth laborers into His harvest." (*Matt.*, ix. 36–38.)

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH.

FOR AN INCREASE OF VOCATIONS TO THIS MISSIONARY PRIESTHOOD.

Hail! through the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, O blessed Joseph! dearly-beloved spouse of the most holy Mother of God, foster-father of our Lord Jesus Christ, happy consummation of the patriarchal line most deeply rooted in humility, most ardent in love, most certain in faith and hope, most strenuous in every good work, most solicitous for the salvation of all, most highly raised in contemplation, most pure in virginity, most perfectly like unto thy Spouse, the Mother of God, in the practice of all virtues. Deign, then, to pray for me and for us all (and especially for the reception, multiplication, advancement, and perseverance of Missionaries to the Colored Missions), that the people faithfully serving God may increase in number and merit. Amen.

OUR DUTY.

Try to realize to yourself—you who live in the possession of the Faith and of the Holy Sacraments—that there are at this moment in our land 7,000,000 of Negroes. Of these nearly all are outside the true Church.

Every day nearly 400 negroes pass into the presence of the awful tribunal of the Soverign Judge. What instruction have any of them ever received at our hands on their duties to the Great God?—what knowledge has been carried to them of the Redemption by the Most Precious Blood—shed for them as for us?

What have you hitherto done to become a Messenger of Peace, an Angel of Salvation to these unhappy millions, who pass their days and die in alienation of soul from their Supreme God?

WHO IS A ZELATOR.

A ZELATOR is one who gets at least twenty subscribers for "The Colored Harvest." To every ZELATOR a copy of this manual will be sent, as also a medal of our Lady of the Rosary and St. Joseph. Besides, the Holy Mass will be specially offered up for their intentions on the first Friday of every month.

Become, then, a ZELATOR.

THE

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OBJECT:

TO FOSTER VOCATIONS FOR THE COLORED MISSIONS AND TO SECURE THEIR SUPPORT.

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